



GRADE

3

KENTUCKY

K-PREP

Kentucky Performance Rating For Educational Progress



READING SAMPLE ITEMS

Spring 2013

The following are the general guides that will be used to evaluate your responses to short-answer and extended-response questions in this test.

Kentucky Short-Answer Questions General Scoring Guide

Score Point 2

- You complete all components of the question and communicate ideas clearly.
- You demonstrate an understanding of the concepts and/or processes.
- You provide a correct answer using an accurate explanation as support.

Score Point 1

- You provide a partially correct answer to the question and/or address only a portion of the question.
- You demonstrate a partial understanding of the concepts and/or processes.

Score Point 0

- Your answer is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

Blank

- You did not give any answer at all.



Nadia Comaneci is a gymnast who knows how hard it is to be perfect. Read this passage about Nadia. Then answer the questions that follow.

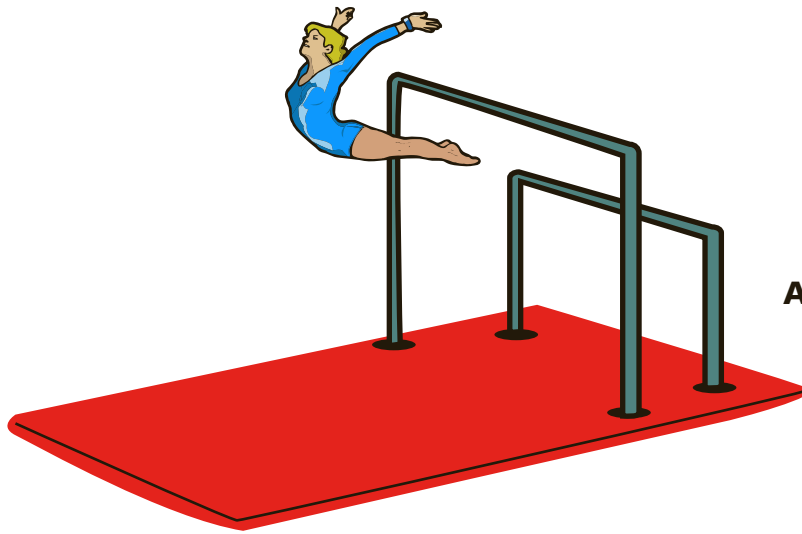
Perfect

- 1 Is it good to be perfect? Some people push themselves to be perfect. They try to never make mistakes. Other people think that being good is good enough. Being perfect is not human, they say. Everyone makes mistakes.
- 2 In 1976, a girl from a small country called Romania wanted to be perfect. She traveled across the Atlantic Ocean from Romania to Montreal, a city in Canada, to be in the Olympics. The girl's name was Nadia Comaneci, and she was only fourteen years old.
- 3 People from all over the world watch the Olympics. The athletes in the Olympics are the best in the world at what they do. Some are skaters, some are skiers, and others perform in group sports, like basketball or hockey. Nadia was a gymnast.
- 4 Nadia was a poor girl from a poor country. She was small for her age and shy, but she was very talented. One day, when she was six years old, a gymnastics coach named Bela Karolyi came to her school. Karolyi was starting a new gymnastics school and looking for talented girls to join his school. He spotted Nadia doing cartwheels on the playground. She soon joined Karolyi's new school.
- 5 Nadia practiced gymnastics for several hours a day, six days a week. She practiced year after year and became very good. She tried to be perfect. People who knew her, many in the gymnastics world, realized how good she was. However, she was less known elsewhere. The 1976 Olympics gave her a chance to show the whole world who she was.





- 6 Nadia's first event was the uneven parallel bars. She was dressed in a white leotard. She was thin and small, and she looked like no match for the fearsome bars.
- 7 She grabbed hold of the bars, swinging like a monkey going from tree to tree. She made gymnastics look as easy as yawning. All of the athletes in the Olympics were fantastic, but another word was needed to describe Nadia. That word became "perfect."



**A gymnast dismounts
from the uneven
parallel bars.**

- 8 Nadia earned the first perfect gymnastics score at the Olympics. She scored a perfect "10." She did not make any mistakes. The judges gave her seven perfect scores in different events during the Olympics. Nadia became the youngest person ever to win the all-around gold medal in gymnastics.
- 9 Was Nadia right to try to be perfect? Would she have been happier if she had tried to be just good enough? Maybe she would have, but maybe not. She will always be known for being perfect!



1

Why is paragraph 4 about Nadia's early life included in the passage?

- A** It shows that Nadia had every advantage.
- B** It shows that Nadia had many disadvantages.
- C** It shows that Nadia had Olympic goals as a child.
- D** It shows that Nadia had strong family support.

2

What does the phrase "she looked like no match for the fearsome bars," in paragraph 6 mean?

- A** Nadia looked almost as thin as the bars.
- B** Nadia looked almost as strong as the bars.
- C** Nadia did not look afraid enough of the bars.
- D** Nadia did not look strong enough for the bars.

3

Read these sentences from paragraph 5.

"Nadia practiced gymnastics for several hours a day, six days a week. She practiced year after year and became very good."

How are these sentences organized?

- A** Cause and effect
- B** Time order
- C** Compare and contrast
- D** By example



4

Based on the picture under paragraph 7, what does dismount mean in the sentence to the right of the picture?

- A** Flying through air
- B** Showing perfect form
- C** Feeling nervous
- D** Jumping off

5

In paragraph 7, the author uses the phrases “swinging like a monkey” and “easy as yawning” to show that Nadia is —

- A** bored
- B** out of control
- C** a natural performer
- D** trained

**6**

Explain the main idea of “Perfect” and how the information in the passage helps to develop that idea. Be sure to use details from the passage in your explanation.

Rubric	
Score	Description
2	The student offers a main idea and discusses how the information in the passage helps develop it.
1	The student offers either a main idea or discusses the information in the passage, but not both.
0	The student’s response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 2-POINT RESPONSE

1. The main idea is about a girl named Nadia and how she was perfect at gymnastics. Nadia scored a perfect '10'. The judges gave her 7 perfect scores in different events at the 1991 Olympics. Nadia was the youngest person ever to win all gold medals in the Olympics.

ANNOTATION — 2-POINT RESPONSE

The student offers a main idea (*a girl named Nadia and how she was perfect at gymnastics*) and discusses how the information in the passage helps develop the idea (*Nadia scored a perfect '10'.... 7 perfect scores in different events.... the youngest person ever to win all gold medals in the Olympics*).

Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 1-POINT RESPONSE

1. The main idea is about trying to be perfect and never giving up.

ANNOTATION — 1-POINT RESPONSE

The student offers a main idea (*trying to be perfect and never giving up*) but does not discuss the information in the passage.

Annotated Student Response**SAMPLE 0-POINT RESPONSE**

1. The definition of "perfect" is to make zero mistakes. Not to get anything wrong. You get everything correct.

ANNOTATION — 0-POINT RESPONSE

The student's response is irrelevant. The student provides a definition of the word "perfect" (*to make zero mistakes. Not to get something wrong. You get everything correct*) but does not offer a main idea nor discuss the information in the passage.



Nadia Comaneci won the hearts of fans around the world by being perfect. But some people thought she was too young for such hard work. Read this paragraph from a letter to the editor about Nadia and her success.

Risking Childhood

To the Editor:

Super talented athletes like Nadia Comaneci often become stars, but they pay a steep price for all the cheering and attention. Nadia is only 14 and has worked for years to reach the top. But should a child that young have so much pressure? Kids have bodies and minds that are growing and not fully developed. They need time for fun and friends, not to mention school. Is a gold medal worth losing your entire childhood? I say no.

Carrie Davis

7

The first sentence of “Perfect” asks “Is it good to be perfect?” The author of the passage and the author of the letter would probably answer this question very differently. Explain what the writer of “Perfect” thinks about being perfect and what the writer of the letter to the editor thinks about being perfect. Use details from the two passages to support your explanation.

Rubric	
Score	Description
2	Student writes how both the passage writer and the letter writer view perfection, with details that support each view.
1	Student writes about how the passage writer sees perfection, or how the letter writer sees it, but not both.
0	The student’s response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

Annotated Student Response**SAMPLE 2-POINT RESPONSE**

2. I think the writer of "Perfect" would describe being perfect as a great feeling that you would love because you entertain other people and they like you and cheer for you. It would feel like being Nadia Comaneci in the Olympics. The author of the letter to the editor would probably say: "It's not worth it to be perfect because you wouldn't be able to go to school or have fun with your friends."

ANNOTATION — 2-POINT RESPONSE

The student explains what the writer of "Perfect" thinks about being perfect (*a great feeling that you would love*) and what the writer of the letter to the editor thinks about being perfect (*It's not worth it to be perfect*). The student supports each point of view with information from the passage "Perfect" (*you entertain other people and they like you and cheer for you...like being Nadia Comaneci*) and with details from the letter to the editor (*you wouldn't be able to go to school or have fun with your friends*).

Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 1-POINT RESPONSE

2. The author of the letter thinks that
It's not about being perfect It's about
having a good childhood and having friends
that you can play with and not having
pressure on you

ANNOTATION — 1-POINT RESPONSE

The student explains what the writer of the letter to the editor thinks about being perfect (*It's not about being perfect It's about having a good childhood and having friends...and not having pressure on you*). However, the student fails to explain what the writer of "Perfect" thinks about being perfect.

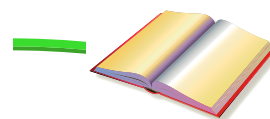
Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 0-POINT RESPONSE

2. Carrie Davis wrote the letter to the Editor.

ANNOTATION — 0-POINT RESPONSE

The response is irrelevant (*Carrie Davis wrote the letter to the Editor*).



Item Information

Question Number	Key	DOK*	KCAS Primary Standard**
1	B	3	RI.3.3
2	D	2	RI.3.4
3	A	2	RI.3.8
4	D	2	RI.3.4
5	C	2	RI.3.6
6	NA	2	RI.3.2
7	NA	2	RI.3.9

*DOK is the abbreviation for Depth of Knowledge. Please note that DOK is associated to the complexity level of an assessment item and is not aligned to the standard. Further information regarding DOK can be accessed on the Kentucky Department of Education Web site: <http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/docs/Pages/Content-Specific-Core-Content-for-Assessment-DOK-Support-Materials.aspx>

**Further information regarding Common Core Standards can be accessed on the Common Core Web site: <http://www.corestandards.org>

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Perfect” Photo Nadia Comaneci © McNamee/CORBIS.



PEARSON